[English]

Hot Rolling Mill in Durgapur Steel Plant

2273. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Hot Rolling Mill in Durgapur Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Teesta Barrage Project in West Bengal

2274. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Teesta Barrage Project;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the Project and the amount of Central assistance provided for this purpose so far; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) As per revised project report of September 1990, the latest estimated cost of the First Sub-Stage of Stage I of the Teesta Barrage Project is Rs. 695 crores.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 334.63 crores has been incurred on the project upto March, 1991. A special Central Assistance of Rs. 5 crores was given for the project during 1983-84 and an advance plan assistance of Rs. 15 crores during 1986-87 and Rs. 10 crores during 1987-88 was provided for this project.

(c) The project is scheduled to spill over to IX plan.

LTTE activities in Tamil Nadu

2275. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LTTE elements are still active in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to contain them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Activities of LTTE in Tamil Nadu are continuing to cause concern.

(b) The Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that sustained action is being taken to eradicate militant LTTE activities and to check their infiltration into India. This includes setting up of check posts and intensification of patrolling on shore and off shore. The Central Government is providing all possible assistance to the State Government in this regard.

South India Water Grid

2276. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to form a South India Water Grid comprising all major rivers to make maximum use of the available water:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Southern States have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of those State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Interlinking of Southern rivers is proposed under the Peninsular river development component of National Perspectives formulated by the Government.

(b) It is proposed to link Mahanadi to Godavari; Godavari to Krishna; Krishna to Cauvery and Cauvery to Vaigai. Also linking of the west flowing Pamba and Achankovil with the east flowing Vaigai for supplying water to the drought prone areas is proposed.

(c) and (d) The proposals are discussed at the different stages of formulation in the Technical and Administrative Committees in which the concerned States are also represented and they are modified according to the suggestions received from the States. The pre-feasibility report on the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaigai link has been sent to the States and further discussions are being held with them.

Courier Service in Private Sector

2277. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Courier Service in Private Sector have grown up rapidly during the last few years;

(b) whether the speed post service has also been expanded during the same period;

(c) if so, the salient feature of the speed post service; and

(d) the details of the cooperation between Private Sector and the Department of posts to further boost its functioning for the benefit of the public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government is aware of the existence of Private Courier Services.

(b) Yes, Sir.

The Speed Post Service was introduced on 1-8-86 initially in 7 cities. Since then this service has been expanded to 60 cities under domestic speed post service and 48 countries under international speed post service.

(c) Speed Post Service is a guaranteed and time-bound delivery service and has the following unique features:

(i) *Free Pick up Service*

(ii) *Book your own article scheme*: Customer grants his own receipt and copies thereof alongwith articles are handed over to the representative of Department.

(iii) *Book Now Pay later facility*: Booking of articles without prepayment and settlement of bills on weekly basis.

(iv) *Pay Back facility*: Refund of speed post fee in case of non-delivery within the time guaranteed.

(d) Private Couriers work independently. There is no cooperation between them and the Department of Post.

[*Translation*]

Closing of Return Letter Office in Jaipur, Rajasthan

2278. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Return Letter Office in Jaipur, Rajasthan was closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present policy of the Government in respect of closing or opening of Return Letter Offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.